

MEMORANDUM FOR KEVIN G. STRICKLIN
Administrator for Coal
Mine Safety and Health

FROM:

GEORGE M. FESAK 
Chairman, MSHA's Fatality Review Committee

SUBJECT:

Fatality Review Committee Decision on Chargeability

Case No.: C-2007-17

Date of accident: February 20, 2007

Date of death: February 20, 2007

Mine: Sentinel Mine

Operating Co.: Wolf Run Mining Company

Decision: Non-chargeable

In a unanimous decision the Fatality Review Committee has determined that the death of the decedent should be non-chargeable to the mining industry. The autopsy finding that the deceased suffered from "Atherosclerotic coronary artery disease, 3 vessel, severe" was compelling evidence to committee members that the decedent died of natural causes. His work activity at the time was not unduly strenuous and a small laceration caused by a fall when the deceased collapsed were not believed to be factors in the death. In addition, the area was checked carefully for noxious gases or an oxygen deficiency but neither was found. Stray electrical voltage and currents were also searched for and not detected.

cc: Richard E. Stickler
John Pallasch
Robert M. Friend